THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) International prices fluctuate depending upon the demand and supply situation of a commodity, International prices of wheat during September, 2008 were in the range of US $ 308 to US $ 222 per tonne, depending on varieties. The comparative prices for September, 2006 and September, 2007 as well as percentage variations are given below:

International prices of wheat

(US $ per tonne)

	September 2006	September 2007	September 2008	% Change (September 08/Sept. 06)	% Change (September 08/Sept. 07)
US No. 2 Hard Red winter-Ord.	208	342	308	48.08	-9-94
US Soft Red winter No. 2	165	323	222	34.55	-31.27

Source: International Grain Council and USDA.

Kharif crops sown during 2008

†22. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain products have been sown in larger area and certain products have been sown in smaller area under the kharif crop of 2008 as compared to last years;

(b) if so, the names of such products which have been sown in larger area;

(c) the names of such products which have been sown in comparatively smaller area and estimated production thereof; and

(d) the expected total production of kharif crop during 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The area sown during Kharif 2008 till 10th October compared to corresponding period during Kharif 2007 is higher in Rice by 10.67 lakh hectares and Oilseeds by 6.34 lakh hectares, while it is smaller in Coarse Cereals by 13.54 lakh hectares, Sugarcane by 8.80 lakh hectares, and Pulses by 19.10 lakh hectares.

(d) The expected production during Kharif 2008 as per 1st Advance Estimates is 83.25 million tons in Rice, 27.36 million tone in Coarse Cereals, 294.65 million tone in Sugarcane, 4.72 million tons in Pulses, 17.95 million tons in Oilseeds, 23.91 million bales in Cotton and 10.31 million bales in Jute.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.